Non-completion of roads along LAC with China

*294. DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA:
SHRI N.K. SINGH:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that out of 73 roads earmarked for construction along the unresolved 4056 km Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China only 12 roads are ready;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of exact reasons identified for non-completion of several roads along LAC with China; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to remove various hurdles in completion of the roads?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) There are 73 roads along Indo-China LAC, out of which 61 are being constructed by BRO. Till date 12 such roads have been completed. Work is in progress on 41 other roads.

(c) Some of the reasons for delay in completing these roads are:—

(i) Delay in obtaining forest and wild life clearance.

(ii) Many roads pass through high altitude areas where working season and daily working time is limited.

(iii) Many roads pass through areas where no labour is available.

(iv) Since jobs are locally available to labour under scheme like NREGA, labour is hesitant to migrate to difficult areas.

(v) Good contractors are not available in far-flung and difficult areas.

(vi) Since many sites are in remote areas not connected by road, supply and material have to be transported there by air.

(vii) There is shortage of manpower with BRO.

(d)
- Efforts have been made to obtain forest clearances quickly by inter-ministry coordination as well as coordination with the State Governments.
- Procurement procedure of BRO for purchase of equipment has been simplified.
- Cooperation of State Governments of Jharkhand and Orissa has been solicited for recruitment of migrant labour from these States.
- Permission for outsourcing air effort has been granted.
- A scheme of providing incentives to the contractor to work in these difficult areas is being formulated.

- Manpower resources in these project areas have been increased by creating 118 units in the region along with 5 new task forces and 9 road construction companies.
- Additional recruitment of manpower with BRO is also being made through UPSC and General Reserve Engineering Force Centre.

Extortion activities carried out by militant outfits in North East

*295 SHRI SILVIUS CONDPAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry is aware of the extortion activities carried out by militants/terrorists in the north eastern region as a result of which there is draining out of national exchequer meant for the development of north eastern region;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken to stop this pilferage of national funds meant for development of States; and

(c) whether any steps have been taken by Government on the basis of investigation by National Investigation Agency so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c) Development funds under various programmes are released to the State Governments concerned, who are responsible for implementation. Some inputs indicate that militant groups are resorting to extortion and siphoning of funds of some of the developmental schemes.

Whenever specific cases in respect of such activities are reported, cases are registered and other counter-measures and action, as necessary, are taken. Concerted efforts are being made by the State Governments in the region to counter the activities of the groups and misguided elements, who have been indulging in violence and extortion etc., and to create an atmosphere of peace and normalcy. The Central Government is supplementing their efforts through various measures such as deployment of additional Central Security Forces for carrying out intensive counter insurgency operations and providing security for vulnerable installations and projects, based on threat assessments; sharing of intelligence; financial assistance for strengthening of the local Police Forces and intelligence agencies under the Police Modernization Scheme; assistance for strengthening various aspects of security apparatus and other aspects of anti-militancy operations by way of reimbursement of Security Related Expenditure; raising of additional Forces in the form of India Reserve Battalions; etc. The Central Government is maintaining close and continuous coordination with the State Governments in the region with a view to periodically review the situation and take further steps, as may be necessary.

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has completed its investigations and submitted a charge sheet in the matter of siphoning of developmental funds meant for North Cachar Hills Autonomous Council, Assam to the militant outfit Dima Halam Daogah (Joel faction).